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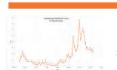
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THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021

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NEWS

Belchertown numbers stay in the 20s...p. 2



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SPORTS Pioneers conclude season...p. 12



REGION

Federal grant to coordinate rare turtle conservation efforts...p. 16

Stormwater subject f two petitions

PHOTO BY MELINA BOURDEAU

Two petitions have been certified by the Belchertown Town Clerk related to the stormwater management bylaws.

BOS hear from Stormwater Committee

MELINA BOURDEAU Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN - Two petitions have been certified in relation to the town's stormwater bylaws, according to Belchertown Town Clerk Coleen Toothill-

The stormwater management bylaw was approved at the 2020 appropriation into the Stormwater Utility Enterprise fund.

One petition proposes to change the way which the program receives funding and the other requested to stop use of the stormwater enterprise fund, according to Department of Public Works Director Steve Williams. He explained the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer permit program created by the Environmental Protection Agency which "regulates pollutants in water.'

Each petition received over about 55 signatures and has been

Annual Town Meeting, as was an certified, meaning they will be added to this year's annual town meeting warrant, Toothill-Berte said. However, it is unclear if the questions will be binding.

On Monday, Williams said the Stormwater Management Committee, composed of members including the Town Administrator, Fire Chief, Conservation Department, Health Department Director and others, decided that using a utility rather than taxation would allow for more sources of funding.

See STORMWATER, page 7 •

BELCHERTOWN

BOS pose concerns about Cutchins Project

MELINA BOURDEAU

Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN - Selectboard members sent a memo to the Planning Board in advance of its March 9 public on the Cutchins Program urging them to take residents' concerns including traffic, lighting and others into consideration during their site plan review.

Selectboard Chair Gail Gramarossa added that the Selectboard is requesting the Planning Board "look at the issues as they are and consult with all the branches of town government that they need to, and inform the community of

what the outcome is - whether there is or is not a need for a special permit."

Selectboard members expressed concerns including whether the project needed a site plan review or a special permit, lighting issues, traffic issues, and the potential impact on property values.

The Cutchins Program for Children and Families gave a partial presentation on the proposed facility at 52 Old Bay Rd and Plaza Ave to the Planning Board at its Feb. 23 meeting. Due to technical difficulties,

See **PROJECT**, page 11 •



GOOGLE EARTH IMAGE

The proposed project on Old Bay Rd and Plaza Ave was discussed by the Selectboard on Monday evening who requested the Planning Board try to address neighbors' concerns about the project.

REGION

Community outreach coordinator chosen

Grant still needs youth engagement coordinator

EILEEN KENNEDY

Staff writer

WARE - The Quabaog Hills Substance Use Alliance announced at its meeting Monday it has hired Abaigeal Duda to be the community outreach person its Prevention Partnership grant. She is also the Ware Regional Recovery Center coordinator.

"I am thrilled to work with this great group of people on this outstanding grant," Duda said. The

WRRC, which will offer services to those in recovery or seeking help with recovery, will be located at 6 South St., in the Millyard complex, she said. The center was originally due to open above Hannah Devine's restaurant on Main Street, but that space didn't work out.

QHSUA facilitator Gail Gramarossa has become the coordinator for the \$1.5 million federal grant aimed at preventing drug use of marijuana, nicotine and alcohol among youth and young adults

Quaboag Hills area towns, including Ware, Palmer and Belchertown.

"That's not to say if other drug use such as opioids or other drugs emerge we won't address them because we will," Gramarossa said.

An epidemiologist has also been hired and a youth engagement coordinator continues to be sought to work with school-aged young children.

Gramarossa said the grant will be very helpful because it is flexible enough for the group to also work on defining substance use for those 19 to 26, and how to prevent people in that age bracket from starting drug use and to help them end use. Most prevention grants are aimed at schoolaged children, she said.

The grant is for five years and the group will receive \$300,000 a year to focus on their work.

It was the awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is a Strategic Prevention Framework -Partnerships for Success grant and will focus on youth 18 and under as well as young adults 19 to 25-years-old, she said. It will use evidence-based curricula, she said.

Gramarossa said it was important to make sure the work of this grant, as well as two others, a federal Drug-Free Communities grant and a STOP grant, which

See COORDINATOR, page 7 •

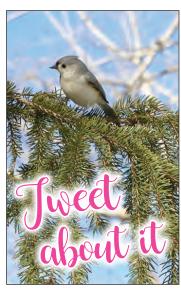


PHOTO BY MELINA BOURDEAU This tufted titmouse was seen in the Quabbin on Monday. These birds are relatives of chickadees and eat insects in the summer and seeds, nuts and berries in the winter.



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Clapp Memorial Library updates

BELCHERTOWN – The following are upcoming events Clapp Memorial Library.

TAB MEETING

The Clapp Memorial Library's Teen Advisory Board will meet virtually on Wednesday, March 24, from 7 to 8 p.m. The Teen Advisory Board is a group of 7th to 12th grade students who propose library programming for teens and provide input on teen services. To receive the link to join the meeting, teens must e-mail clapplibrary-tab@gmail.com to register. New members are welcome.

Scholastic at the Library

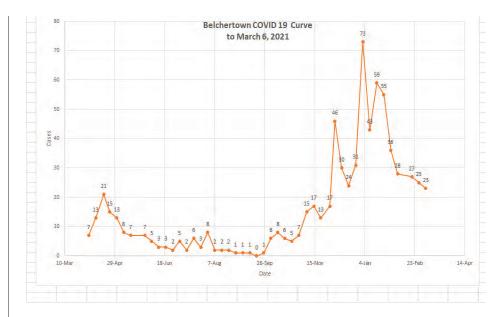
The Clapp Memorial Library is excited to offer a selection of online Scholastic resources to Belchertown residents - for homeschooling, learning at home and beyond.

For reading and language skills we offer BookFlix, a digital literacy resource that pairs animated stories with best-selling nonfiction eBooks on a similar subject. It provides colorful animation, rich audio, interactive games, and built in tools to engage and support beginning readers.

FreedomFlix provides social studies resources exploring people, places, and events that shaped our world, and is designed to help develop inquiry-based learning skills, build content-area knowledge, and strengthen literacy skills

Lastly, we've added ScienceFlix to support STEM learning! ScienceFlix provides over 70 areas of study, encouraging students to explore science concepts and ideas through hands-on projects, interactive features, text, video, and more.

Visit clapplibrary.org/scholastic to learn more!



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Belchertown numbers stay in 20s

MELINA BOURDEAU

Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – The case numbers in town have remained relatively stagnant, and town officials are staying cautiously optimistic.

For the week of Sunday, Feb. 28 to Saturday, March 6, there were 23 new cases of COVID-19 in Belchertown, bringing the total number of cases to 733. Sixteen people have died due to COVID-19

There were a total of 1,176 tests performed during this weekly period, making the total number of tests 28,379 up to March 4.

The town's yellow color designation also remains the same from the last weekly period from Feb. 14 to Feb. 27, according to the state metrics system.

The case positivity rate in that period was 2.25%, which is slightly lower than the last week's which was 2.34%. However, the rate per 100,000 was slightly higher at 19.6 from 19.1 in the last week.

Quabbin Health Director Judy Metcalf said the number has plateaued over the past few weeks.

"I expect that to continue. The state as a whole has plateaued and many states have experienced a plateau," Metcalf said. "There's only two ways a plateau can go...You either need to double down and change your routine to get out of that plateau or if you get discouraged and lighten up, you see those numbers go higher."

She described March as "precarious" because there is COVID-fatigue.

"People see the number have dropped, vaccinations are improving but we also have those variants on the horizon we need to keep an eye on," Metcalf said. "A lot can happen in March. We need to be able to get through this, get more people vaccinated not open up too quickly and keep message out about public health safety measures."

Officials in the COVID-19 Task Force meeting last week discussed the vaccinate roll out, which has been "a mess," according to Metcalf.

"The system is a mess – that's the only way to describe it at this point. It's all based online, the software keeps crashing. Every time they try to fix it by making a waiting room, it just gets worse," said Metcalf.

She said that the state is currently doing vaccinations at satellite clinics, such as in Amherst, or regional locations such as the Eastfield Mall.

"The governor keeps opening up more eligible groups but the vaccine supply isn't meeting the demand, that's very hard," Metcalf said. "Our seniors feel they are at a disadvantage because of how far you have to travel and how tech savvy you have to be."

Homebound seniors received vaccinations last week through the town of Amherst's vaccination program.

The COVID-19 Task Force will be meeting again on Thursday, March 18.

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Anacelis Flecha, CNM Certified Nurse Midwife Cooley Dickinson ObGyn & Midwifery

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- Bachelor of Science in Nursing: Elms College

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is to provide families with evidenced-based information and empower them so that they can make an informed decision about their health."

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Pathfinder Superintendent to retire in June

School Committee selects Eric Duda

PALMER – For the first time since 1974, the Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District will soon have a change in its top leadership.

Superintendent Gerald Paist served the District for 48 years and plans to retire as of June 30, 2021.

At the last meeting of the Pathfinder Tech School Committee, members unanimously selected current Assistant Superintendent/Principal Eric Duda as the school's next superintendent effective July 1, subject to successful contract negotiations.



Eric Duda

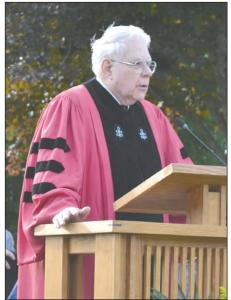
Following the meeting, Paist expressed his support for the committee's choice.

"I could not think of a better individual to take my place," he said. "We have had a wonderful relationship and have worked side by side for the past few years; I'm excited about the future!"

Paist began working at Pathfinder Tech in 1974 after serving as a member of the administration at Westfield State College for six years.

He was the fourth superintendent for a school that was only two years old, a fact that suggests a rough beginning in the early days of the district. For the past several years, he has been the longest serving superintendent in the Commonwealth.

When asked why so long, he said, "It has been a wonderful place to work. We have an extraordinary faculty and staff, students who want to be here, supportive member communities, and a terrific school commit-



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS ARCHIVE PHOTOS
Pathfinder Regional School Superintendent Dr.
Gerald Paist is retiring this June after 48 years
with the district. Patherfinder Regional Vocational
High School Principal Eric Duda, and assistant
superintendent, has been chosen to fill the
position after Paist retires. Here Paist is seen at
Pathfinder's 2018 graduation.

tee!"

Paist's tenure at Pathfinder Tech has been marked by periods of growth. Early enrollment in 1973 included approximately 325 students; in recent years, enrollment has increased to over 600 students. In addition, the number of member communities has expanded from four to nine and the program offerings have risen from 10 to 16. School Committee Chairperson Julie Quink recently paid tribute to his work.

"The success of Pathfinder and the academic successes of its current and former students have been under your watchful eye and care for nearly a half century," Quink said. "The relationships that you have built

with community members and member towns has created a strong foundation upon which future administration can continue to build, in moving Pathfinder forward in new directions and paths."

Duda himself attended Pathfinder Tech as an electrical student from 1996 to 2000. Following graduation, he enrolled at Western New England University to study Electrical Engineering and graduated with a B.S. degree in 2004. He then worked as an engineer in industry until, by chance, he ran into Dr. Paist at a time when Pathfinder Tech was seeking an instructor in Electronics Technology. With his subsequent hiring for that position, his career at Pathfinder Tech began an upward trajectory.

He served as an Electronics Instructor from 2006 through 2013, subsequently earning the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award and was appointed Department Head for that program. In recognition for his outstanding teaching and valuable service on a number of committees and activities, he was promoted to Vocational Director in 2013 where he oversaw instruction and curriculum in all programs. From 2014 to 2017 he also took on the added responsibilities of a Cooperative Education Director and expanded that program beyond expectations.

In his current role of Assistant Superintendent/Principal, Duda led the charge in a multitude of initiatives that have led to positive outcomes, including an unprecedented rise in MCAS scores and an increase in the rigor and diversity of programming.

Duda was elected to the Palmer Town Council in 2009 and was that body's

President in 2010 to 2011. He also served on the Charter Commission as a member and Clerk.

Today, he serves as an elected member of the Planning Board in his town of residence

During his interview with the committee, he proposed several initiatives, including robust outreach efforts to District students and their families; maintaining positive relations with member town officials; updating the school's strategic plan; and the possibility of new technical programs.

In 2011, Duda earned his Master of Education degree in School Administration from American International College and is currently pursuing his PhD. He enjoys time with his wife Jen and their three children.

As a career and technical high school, Pathfinder Tech features 16 technical programs and robust academic offerings--including honors and Advanced Placement courses—to students in the District's nine member towns of Belchertown, Granby, Hardwick, Monson, New Braintree, Oakham, Palmer, Ware and Warren, as well as to students through non-resident Chapter 74 tuition and school choice.

Pathfinder Tech's 16 program offerings include Advanced Manufacturing, Automotive Technology, Business Technology, CAD/Pre-Engineering, Carpentry, Collision Repair, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Electrical, Electronics Technology, Health Assisting, Horticulture, Hospitality Management, HVAC-R, Plumbing, and Programming and Web Development. Students interested in being considered for the 2021-2022 school year may submit an application at https://www.PathfinderTech.org.



ANNUAL CEMETERY CLEANING NOTIFICATION

The Department of Public Works,
Maintenance Division will be conducting the
annual removal of ALL seasonal decorations
within the Towns' Cemeteries. For anyone
wishing to retrieve personal graveside items,
please do so before March 15, 2021.

All items will be removed beginning March 15, 2021.

Seasonal Laborer(s)

Temporary Seasonal Laborer positions are available at the Belchertown Department of Public Works. Positions are approximately 32-40 hours per week (as scheduled by the Director of Public Works) and available immediately through October, 2021. Duties include using commercial grounds maintenance equipment (i.e. mowers, leaf blowers and vacs, string trimmers, brush and chainsaws, and basic hand tools). Must be able to engage in heavy physical labor on a regular and continuous basis, and capable of driving a pickup truck/landscape trailer combination. Positions are temporary and non-benefited.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, possess a valid Massachusetts Driver's License and have a clear driving record. Employment applications are available in the Selectmen's Office at The Finnerty House, One South Main Street, Belchertown, MA 01007, and will be accepted until the positions are filled.



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Vaccines, food insecurity, mental health, substance use discussed

EILEEN KENNEDY

Staff writer

WARE - The Quaboag Hills Community Coalition and the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance recently held their annual meeting with state elected officials, including state senators, state representatives and district attorneys, on via Zoom.

The topic of COVID-19 vaccinations was brought up by social service providers, such as Ware's Council on Aging Director John Zienowicz, and by elected officials.

Zienowicz asked the legislators as a group how to get more vaccinations out to Western Mass as the state government diverts vaccination supplies meant for Western Mass to large distribution sites in the eastern part of the

"We're trying to address our most vulnerable seniors and get those people to those appointments to get the vaccine," said Zienowicz, but the process is made more difficult when vaccine doses are shifted away from the

State Sen. Anne Gobi, D-Spencer, and State Rep. Todd Smola, R-Warren, pulled no punches in their assessments of the state's COVID-19 vaccination program.

"This rollout has been a complete disaster," said Gobi. "And it falls at the feet of the governor and Secretary (of Health and Human Services Marylou) Sudders." She said only 1/12 of the 6.9 million residents have received both of their two vaccine shots so far. "We've got a long a way to go," she said. "If he doesn't want to be partners (in the process) then he'll take all the blame." Gobi said legislators found about about how the vaccination program would unfold in the media, with no details from him or his administration ahead of time. "This is not the way it should be," she said.

Large mass vaccination sites are not helpful for rural communities with transportation issues, she said, pointing to Palmer and Oakham as small communities getting vaccinations done. 'This isn't going to be done from Fenway," she said.

Smola agreed, saying, "I and my colleagues make no apologies with what has happened with this vaccine rollout. As much as the people at the state level said, 'yeah, we're ready to do this,' clearly they weren't."

He said he and other legislators are

on the phone every day of the week at all hours of the day and night trying to get the Department of Health and the administration to realize mass vaccine sites are not the answer for many small rural communities with transportation issues.

Smola said legislators hope the rollout evolves so it is able to really help rural communities in Central and Western Mass. "We can't accept a really bad rollout and administration of the vaccines," he said. He and the other legislators will continue applying pressure so that "rural territories like ours do not get screwed in the process.'

He also pointed to leadership by Gobi on food insecurity issues and by State Rep. Susannah Whipps, R-Athol, on mental health issues, both of which were hugely important as area providers worked to help people during COVID-19.

Northwestern District Attorney Michael Sullivan thanked the Gobi, Smola and Whipps for working so hard 24/7 through the pandemic to make sure people had the basics, including

Smola also urged everyone to direct those having issues with unemployment in his district to call his office.

Veterans can get COVID shots in Ludlow

LUDLOW — The VA of Central Western Massachusetts Healthcare System will be offering the Janssen (Johnson and Johnson) COVID-19 Vaccinations to VA-enrolled veterans of all ages on Tuesday, March 16, at the Ludlow Lodge of Elks on 69 Chapin Street.

Vaccines will be administered by appointment only from 9 a.m. to noon and to walk-ins - while supplies last – from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

The clinic has 150 doses to administer.

Appointments can be scheduled starting March 10. There are no residency restrictions.

"We are honored that Ludlow has been chosen to host the second community vaccine clinic here in Western Massachusetts," said Eric Segundo, director of Veterans Services for the town.

Veterans who need information about enrollment or how to enroll in the VA are asked to call the Ludlow Veterans Office at 413-583-5600, ext. 1290.

Requirements for Vaccine:

Veterans eligible for the March 16 vaccinations in Ludlow must be enrolled in the VA Healthcare System. Call 413-582-3110 for an appointment and bring your VA Healthcare ID.

Knights offer corned beef special on March 20

BELCHERTOWN - The St. Francis of Assisi Knights of Columbus Council 10698 will sponsor again its monthly curbside take-out dinner on Saturday, March 20 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the St. Francis of Assisi Social Center at 14 Park St across from the Belchertown Common municipal parking lot.

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the Knights are offering a corned beef sandwich special. The meal includes a healthy corned beef brisket sandwich, chips, pickle and choice of drink of soda or bottled water, for the \$10.

Only 125 entrée's will be prepared, so the Knights can make them fresh to order at the time you pull up. Once they're gone, they're gone. Due to the demand expected, come early to get your Irish pot of gold. Orders can be placed in advance by checking out the Facebook event on the Council's page at www.facebook.com/belchertownkofc or their website page at https://www.stfrancisbelchertown.com/ knights-of-columbus. Payment is cash only at the time of

Proceeds of the dinner goes towards the council and the charitable works your local Knights of Columbus performs in

Vacancy on the scholarship committee

BELCHERTOWN - The town of Belchertown wishes to fill an at-large seat on the Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship Committee's responsibility includes setting an application process and the disbursement of funds. If you are interested in serving as an at-large member, please submit a letter of interest to the Belchertown Select Board, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, MA 01007 no later than 12 p.m. on Friday, March 12.



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Belchertown Community Television schedule

BELCHERTOWN - This is the upcoming schedule for Thursday, March 11 to Wednesday, March 17. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this schedule is subject to change.

Thursday, March 11

- 8 a.m. COVID Update March 4
- 8:30 a.m. Selectboard March 8
- 10:30 a.m. Conservation Comm. March 8
- 12:30 p.m. Planning Board March 9
- 7 p.m. COVID Update March 4
- 7:30 p.m. Selectboard March 8
- 9:30 p.m. Conservation Comm. March 8
- 11:30 p.m. Planning Board March 9

Friday, March 12

- 8 a.m. Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. COVID Update March
- 9:30 a.m. School Committee March 9
- 11:30 a.m. COVID Task Force March 4
- 7 p.m. Conversation with Pakman
- 8 p.m. COVID Update March 4
- 8:30 p.m. School Committee March 9
- 10:30 p.m. COVID Task Force March 4

Saturday, March 13

- 8 a.m. Curious Giraffe
- 8:30 a.m. COVID Update March 4
- 9 a.m. Town Talk Lori Allen
- 10 a.m. Dementia Forum (taped)
- 7 p.m. COVID Update March 4
- 7:30 p.m. Town Talk Lori Allen
- 8 p.m. Dementia Forum (taped)

Sunday, March 14

- 4:30 p.m. St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
- 6 p.m. Christ Community Church
- 7 p.m. Hope United Methodist Church
- 8:30 p.m. Town Talk Lori Allen
- 9:30 p.m. Dementia Forum (taped)

Monday, March 15

- 8 a.m. Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. Town Talk Lori Allen
- 10 a.m. Dementia Forum (taped)
- 5 p.m. Conversation with Pakman
- 6:30 p.m. Selectboard Channel 191

Tuesday, March 16

- 8 a.m. Curious Giraffe
- 9 a.m. Services for our Aging Population (taped)

Wednesday, March 17

- 8 a.m. Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. Town Talk Lori Allen
- 1 p.m. Meditation Meta Mantra Meditation
- 7 p.m. Conversation with Pakman
- 8 p.m. Town Talk Lori Allen

• 9 p.m. – Dementia Forum (taped)

The BCTV Studio is located at 68 State St., Belchertown. BCTV channels are 191, 192 and 193. The BCTV schedule is available at www.Belchertown.org. On the main title page select "residents," click on Belchertown Community Television. Selected BCTV shows are also available on Vimeo. Go to www. Belchertown.org, go to quick links and click on "watch meetings and events online." The schedule is subject to change.

■ EDUCATION

Belchertown seniors featured in Q and A

chose

BELCHERTOWN - Belchertown High School Principal Christine Vigneux has begun featuring a member of the Class of 2021 in a question and answer survey about their tenure in the school.

osycho path Each of the seniors featured decorated a cap sharing their future plans and they have also answered questions about their experiences at "the Nest," the school community of Belchertown Public Schools.

These seniors will be featured in the Sentinel as well.



What are your future plans?

I will be attending Franklin Pierce University majoring in Psychology and minoring in forensic psychology. My goal is to get my bachelors in psychology during undergrad and then get my masters.

What is your favorite memory from the nest?

I loved the connections I built at school. Not only with classmates but also with teachers. I loved all the teachers I had, and without them I

definitely wouldn't be where I am

What advice do you have for our younger Orioles?

My advice for younger Orioles would be to not worry about what other people think about you. It'll ruin your whole high school experience. Do what makes you happy, and get involved. Also, if you get Mr. Lantaigne as a teacher don't laugh



Belchertown High School senior Chloe Pouliot.

during Lord of the Flies because he will shut it off.

What is your proudest moment as an Oriole?

My proudest moment as an Oriole would probably have to be getting high honors this year. Especially with everything going on, I'm proud I was able to push through it and still reach my goal.

Belchertown children's meals program menu

For the week of March 15 to March 19

Note: Tuesday through Thursday are small meal kit items

Monday

Breakfast: Bagel with cream cheese and fruit. Lunch: Loaded beef and cheese nachos and corn. Kindergarten through sixth grade alternative: muffin with yogurt.

Tuesday

(Small Meal Kits come home)

Breakfast: muffin and 100% fruit juice. Lunch: Cheesy baked ziti and green beans. Kindergarten through sixth grade alternative: sunbutter and jelly sandwich.

Wednesday **Curbside Meal Kit Pickup** at BHS 11 a.m. from 1 p.m.

Remote learning day, no in school

Thursday

Breakfast: Poptart and fruit. Lunch: K-6 hot dog on a bun, 7-12 roasted pork with gravy, butternut squash and a dinner roll. Kindergarten through sixth grade alternative: min-pancakes and a cheese stick.

Friday – Small meal kits come home and orders due today for next week.

Breakfast: Croissant with jelly and 100% fruit juice. Lunch: Grilled cheese, oven fries and vegetarian baked beans. Kindergarten through sixth grade alternative: sunbutter and jelly sandwich.

Note

Pre-k and Kindergarten will offer a daily in-school alternative choice: Muffin, yogurt, vegetable, fruit, and

Grades 7 to 12 will offer daily in-school alternative choices: pizza station, deli bar and pre-made sal-



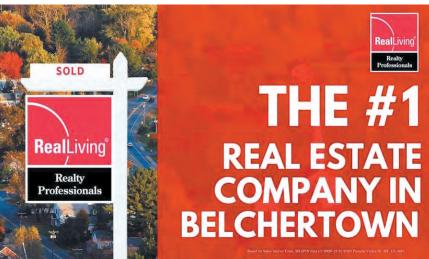




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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

About working while collecting early Social Security benefits

RUSSELL GLOOR

Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I will be 65 in August of this year. If I start drawing Social Security on my 65th birthday, how will my Social Security check be affected if I continue working at my full-time job, and take home \$1,380 every two weeks, until I reach my full retirement age?-Signed: Working Senior

Dear Working Senior: Social Security has an "earnings test" which applies to anyone who collects benefits before they have reached their full retirement age, or FRA. There is also a "first-year rule," which applies when someone claims benefits mid-year, prior to their full retirement age. The first-year rule says that if you exceed a monthly limit you aren't entitled to benefits for that month, and that applies for each remaining month in the first year, after your benefits start. Then, starting in 2022, you'll be subject to an annual earnings limit. Since you will reach your full retirement age in 2022, your annual limit that year will be a bit more than the 2021 FRA-year limit of \$50,520 (the earnings limits change annually).

If you claim Social Security to start in August when you are 65, for the remainder of 2021 you'll be subject to a monthly earnings limit of \$1,580. And if your gross earnings for each remaining month in 2021 are more than that, and yours would be, then you won't be entitled to Social Security benefits for the remaining months of 2021. For clarity, you would also have the option to request that the annual limit (\$18,960 for 2021) be used instead of the monthly limit, but at your earnings level you would still be required to repay all of your 2021 benefits, using the annual limit would require you to repay \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit.

When you file your income taxes next year, Social Security will discover you exceeded the 2021 earnings limit and require you to repay all benefits received in 2021. By "repay," I mean they will give you an option to repay everything they paid you in 2021 in a lump sum, or they will withhold future benefits until they recover what you owe because you exceeded the monthly limit. Alternatively, you could request a less severe repayment plan, but you would need to negotiate that directly with Social Security.

Essentially, if you plan to continue working full time in 2021, it may be wise to simply delay claiming your Social Security for a while, because you will end up needing to return any benefits paid in 2021. You could still claim in August and then inform them you will exceed the limit; in which case they will simply withhold your benefits. But in any case, you won't be eligible for Social Security benefits in 2021 at the earnings level you shared.

As explained above, your 2022 earnings limit will be more than the 2021 limit of \$50,520 for those achieving FRA, and if you claim benefits to start in January 2022 that higher annual limit would apply. If you're still working full time at the same earnings level, you probably will not exceed the 2022 annual limit, so your benefits wouldn't be affected. But if you get a raise and exceed the 2022 limit, Social Security will want back \$1 for every \$3 you exceeded the limit by the FRA-year rate.

Of course, since the earnings limit goes away when you reach your full retirement age, you might also consider just waiting until your FRA to claim Social Security and completely avoid the earnings test.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email sadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



GUEST COLUMN

Cabbage conundrums

always feel a bit guilty on St. Patrick's Day. What kind of Irish girl am I if I don't particularly like corned beef and cabbage? Most of my life I found the meat too salty and the cabbage... well, too cabbagey. The past couple of years, though, in an effort to help my gut microbiome replenish itself after too many Lyme antibiotics, I began taking an interest in fermented foods. Sauerkraut has become one of my favorites.

Last year I met a woman at a Grange talk who had a basement full of sauerkraut she made herself. Intrigued and always up for a homesteading challenge, I decided then and there that I was going to grow enough cabbage to fill my basement, too. The only problem was that I never had much success with this vegetable. Sure, I've enjoyed a homegrown head or two, but a cabbage farmer I am not. Thugs, slugs, bugs and cracks, in that particular order, have always thwarted my best efforts. Read on to learn about my experiences as I went from growing a half dozen cabbage plants to over 30.

I sowed my cabbage seeds indoors off heat the second week of April last year. When the first true leaf appeared, I transplanted the seedlings into individual cells of six packs and watered with a liquid fertilizer diluted to half strength. Bright light but cool temperatures grew stocky plants, and by May 15 they were ready to be hardened off. They were installed into the garden a week before Memorial Day. Most of the plants went into one of my rock-edged raised beds. I thought I was so smart. First I installed three-foot hardware cloth to keep out the bunnies (thugs), then I laid soaker hoses to and fro, knowing how these beds can bake in the heat and dry out daily. Cabbages aren't what you would call heat-loving. If that wasn't enough, I then covered the whole thing with a floating row cover, anticipating that the cabbage looper, the cabbage worm and the imported cabbage worm (all bugs) would visit and demolish my seedlings in no time. All my bases were covered, literally, and things were going great. The leaves began to pucker and curl: the seedlings were on their way to making heads!

But alas, I began to notice holes in the leaves. The kind of holes where you can see a shiny trail. Slugs had found my cabbage patch. Sometimes there were even dark gray slugs still attached to the leaves. Big ones, little ones, yuck! I began hand picking furiously, every morning at sun-



rise and again just before dark. Things finally began to look up and then the aphids (yet more bugs) hit. Did you ever see gray aphids in such an abundance that they look more like a waxy coating than individual bugs? Yessiree, that was my cabbage patch. I think, because this setup of mine only required that I turn on the soaker hose and not lift the cover and inspect my plants, things got way out of control. Had I seen the first few aphids I could have maybe blown them off with a spray of water, or waited until evening and sprayed with soap to smother the buggers. But once heads form and the aphids are within the overlapping leaves, you might as well call the party over and plant a cover crop instead. Live and learn.

Thankfully, this is not the end of the story. There were six cabbage transplants that I couldn't fit in the raised bed. I planted them at the end of my broccoli row in the main garden. Although plagued with a few slugs, and even a few bugs, I was able to harvest each head and made my first ever batch of sauerkraut, totally just about two gallons worth! As my bounty dwindles near winter's end, I am already strategizing this year's cabbage crop. I am going to try growing an early variety to try and beat the worst of the bugs.

Although still not a fan of corned beef, cabbage has surely has found its place in my palate and in my garden.

happy st. patrick's day!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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SENTINEL

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STORMWATER • from page 1

"Private non-profits, state facilities, the town of Belchertown wouldn't have to pay under taxation," Williams said. "The enterprise fund holds us accountable. It's supposed to be used for projects related to stormwater activities only, versus the general fund where money could go to different places."

He added that taxation might cause a situation such as someone with a geographically smaller, more valuable property paying more than a less valuable property with a larger footprint.

Williams came before the Selectboard on March 1 to discuss the stormwater management program.

He said the town met the EPA's threshold for regulating illicit stormwater discharges through the stormwater program in 2003. The stormwater committee worked to produce a plan to determine what to do with the

mandate, which became stricter in 2016, Williams said.

"With the utility establishment we could have went with a flat rate where everyone would have been charged the same amount of money regardless of the amount of development, that didn't seem like a fair way to bill people," Williams said. "What we did was look at the amount of development on each property. That turned into a definition for what would be considered an impervious area."

He said going with the utility and impervious area calculation, the group created billing units. There are about 45,000 billable units in Belchertown.

Williams said there is a process for filing an abatement, which, if denied, will go through an appeal process in front of the Selectboard.

As of the March 1 meeting, the town issued 5,486 utility fee bills and 68 abatements have been received, \$614 worth of requests have been abated and 85% of

fees have been collected, according to Williams. There have been 25 approved abatement requests and 29 denied. There are 14 outstanding requests.

"That's what we expected we figured we would be at 85% there is still some additional abating," Williams said.

An establishment of a credit program is on the way as well as the ability to appeal a denial, which will go before the Selectboard.

The Conservation Department created a form to file an appeal of a denied application to send to the Selectboard, which will prompt associated documents to be sent to the board.

Information about the storm-water utility fee, abatement forms and other information can be found online at the Belchertown Conservation Department website at https://www.belchertown.org/conservation/stormwater_utility_information___applications.php.

COORDINATOR • from page 1

focuses on alcohol use prevention, are monitored to be sure there is no overlapping in the work of all three grants.

"We need to coordinate with all of us working together," she said. "We need to not be duplicating our work, but integrate what we're doing together."

She also said it was time to apply to continue the five-year Drug-Free Communities grant as the first five years are up this year. The alliance can now apply

for a second five-year grant.

Narcan

Go Purple Quabbin Youth Initiative Program Director Nekr Jenkins said the distribution of Narcan, which temporarily blocks the effect of opioids on the body, is continuing and she is providing training over Zoom. The distribution of Narcan will be worked out with deliveries to those who have received training or pickup by them. In the near future there may also be locked boxes with Narcan in them available in the community.





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College NOTES

UT Student, Jasmine McMickle, earned Dean's List honors

TAMPA, FL – Jasmine McMickle, of Amherst, earned dean's list honors at The University of Tampa for the Fall 2020 semester. McMickle is a Junior majoring in Criminology and Criminal Justice. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean's list.

The University of Tampa is a private, comprehensive university located on 110 acres on the riverfront in downtown Tampa.

URI students named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List

KINGSTON, RI – The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce the Fall 2020 Dean's List. The students represent nearly all of Rhode Island's cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries. The following students were named to Dean's List:

Nina Choquette of Amherst

Alyssa Fraleigh of Belchertown

Kenzie Thomas of Belchertown Connor Young of Amherst

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter

grades earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

SNHU announces Fall 2020 President's List

MANCHESTER, NH – It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University congratulates the following students on being named to the fall 2020 President's List.

Eligibility for the President's List requires that a student accumulate an academic grade point average of 3.7-4.0 and earn 12 credits for the semester.

Tabitha Collins of Granby

Kelly Baird of Belchertown

Southern New Hampshire University is a private, nonprofit institution with an 88-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults.

Amherst's Grace Lane named to St. Lawrence University's Dean's List

CANTON, NY – Grace Lane from Amherst has been selected for inclusion on St. Lawrence University's Dean's List for academic achievement during the Fall 2020 semester.

Lane is a member of the Class of 2024. Lane attended Williston Northampton School.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must have completed at least four courses and have an academic average of 3.6 based on a 4.0 scale for the semester.

Students named to the University of Hartford President's Honors List

WEST HARTFORD, CT – The University of Hartford congratulates the students who have been named to the President's Honors List for Fall 2020.

The President's Honors List is made up of an extremely select group of students who earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher in the semester.

Jenna Kruse of Belchertown

Hannah Sugrue of Belchertown Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades.

Cara McKenzie makes Fall 2020 Dean's List at Adelphi University

GARDEN CITY, NY – Cara McKenzie of Belchertown, has been named to Adelphi University's fall 2020 Dean's List.

McKenzie was among a select group of outstanding students recognized by Adelphi's deans of Arts and Sciences, Education and Health Science, Business, Nursing and Public Health, Social Work and Psychology for superior academic performance. The list comprises full-time students-registered for 12 or more credits-who have completed at least nine graded credits and achieved a GPA of 3.5 or above for the semester. This recognition becomes part of the student's academic record and is entered into the individual's transcript.

Scholarship applications now available

BELCHERTOWN – The Town of Belchertown Scholarship Committee will be awarding year 2020-2021 scholarships to Belchertown residents with acceptances to recognized institutions for post-secondary education. For those interested in applying, please go to http://www.belchertownps.org/belchertown-high-school/belchertown-scholarship-information to access the online scholarship application, and instructions.

Due to COVID-19, please submit your paper application packages via drop-off box located at the Belchertown Central School Office, 14 Maple Street, Belchertown, MA. Applications will be accepted Monday thru Thursday only, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All applications and required criteria must be submitted no later than March 26.

The Scholarship Committee wishes to thank everyone for theirgenerous donations and continued support, for students.

Belchertown kindergarten registration open in March

BELCHERTOWN – If you are a Belchertown resident, and have a child who will be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2021, you are encouraged to complete a kindergarten registration packet for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year beginning Friday, March 5 through Friday, April 9.

The registration packet link is located on the left-hand side of the Cold Spring School website: www.belchertownps.org/css. Packets will also be available at the front entrance of Cold Spring School in the bin marked kindergarten registration packets. For drop-off convenience, place all registration materials in a sealed envelope in the drop box located to the right of the main entrance of Cold Spring School or if preferred, you may mail your packet to Cold Spring School, 57 South Main St., Belchertown, MA 01007.

In addition to the required registration packet, you will be asked to provide: the student's certified birth certificate with raised seal, a copy of immunization records (including lead screening), and a current physical (within one year). You will also need to provide two proofs of Belchertown residency: one in the form of a mortgage statement or rental/lease agreement and the second proof in the form of a utility bill (heating, electricity or phone) at the address listed on the registration form.

Please call the CSS main office at 413-323-0428 Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with any questions or concerns.





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Law Offices of Mark E. Salomone awarding \$3,000 in scholarship prizes

Three prizes will be awarded to students based on essays about distracted driving

BOSTON - The Law Offices of Mark E. Salomone in Massachusetts is proud to sponsor a nationwide essay contest focusing on innovative ways to prevent distracted driving. The three essay winners will receive \$3,000 worth of scholarship prizes for education-related expenses.

The essay contest is open to current or admitted undergraduates (including grad-

uating high school seniors) and law school students who will be attending accredited colleges or universities in the United States in fall 2021. Proof of enrollment will be required to receive the award. Essays must be between 500 and 1,000 words long. The essays will focus on how to prevent distracted driving and promote safe driving habits among young drivers.

Distracted driving - especially sending or reading a text - poses a threat not just to the driver, but to their passengers, people in other cars, and pedestrians. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), from 2014 to 2018 more than 15,000 people were killed in crashes involving a distracted driver, and teens ages 15 to 19 have the largest percentage of fatal crashes due to distracted driving.

The winning essay will be awarded \$1,500. The second prize winner receives a \$1,000 prize. Third place receives a \$500 prize. Only one essay can be submitted per student. Essays must be original content.

The application deadline is May 31. Winners will then be announced on July 31. Applicants can view the rules of the contest and apply online at the following web page for the Law Offices of Mark E. Salomone: www.marksalomone.com/schol-

arship

Each submission must include:

- An essay as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx format)
- A digital photo of applicant (in .jpg or .png format)
- A school transcript or proof of enrollment
- Applicant's name, address and phone number
- School name and address
- A short, two to three sentence bio
- A waiver form with a parent or guardian's signature for applicants under 18 years old

Junior Achievement of Western Mass. offers webinar series for students

New webinars focus on personal finance and career opportunities

SPRINGFIELD - Last year, Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts broadened its hands-on, in-classroom and experiential programs to include virtual program delivery in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In keeping with this commitment, they recently announced two new, free webinar series for teens and young adults. The first, Virtual Personal Finances, is offered in partnership with Santander Bank. The second, MassMutual Career Opportunities, is offered in partnership with the MassMutual Passages Business Resource Group, which strives to foster a culturally competent and inclusive workplace to enable the growth, development and advancement of Black and African American employees and allies.

"The past year has been especially challenging, so it's even important that we help young people envision a future that they can shape and look forward to," said Jennifer A. Connolly, President, JAWM. "Staying true to JA's commitment to providing pathways to success for young people, these virtual programs focus on financial literacy and work readiness. Both series allow students to meet new people and make connections while giving them real world information they can use."

The Virtual Personal Finance Webinar Series includes seven 45-minute seminars that focus on the following topics:

- Basic Banking
- Budgeting
- Credit
- Credit Reports
- Auto Loans

- Introduction to Business
- Home Buying

"Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts has had the privilege of working with Angel Burgado, Vice President, Community Partnership Manager for Santander for many years," said Connolly. "We're thankful to Santander Bank for providing the resources necessary for this program to help our young people, many of whom are learning remotely, connect with members of the community and grow up to be successful adults."

Students can register for this series and learn more at jawm.org/virtual-personal-finance-webinar-series.

The MassMutual Career Opportunities webinars are three, one-hour sessions that each offer an overview of the MassMutual Passages BRG with guest speakers discussing different careers and pathways, and a

question-and-answer period. Students can register and learn more at jawm.org/massmutual-career-opportunity-webinars.

"Our relationship with Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts goes back years," said Ebonee Sifuentes, Investment Operations Director, Wealth Management at MassMutual. "I'm thrilled we've been able to continue working with JAWM even during the pandemic with a remote learning environment to bring this informational session to students. It's clear from their questions that the webinar opens their eyes to different career pathways to explore in the future, pushing them to think about new opportunities and types of success in financial fields."

The webinars are held live on Zoom and are then posted online for students to watch and watch again.

UMass Fine Arts Center presents Spring 'Bodies at Risk' artist series

AMHERST –The UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center proudly announces the next two events in its Bodies at Risk series of BIPOC artist presentations and conversations. Tickets are free via registration online at: fineartscenter.com or by calling the Box Office at 413-545-2511 or 1 800-999-UMAS. The box office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All Fine Arts Center virtual events are closed captioned, with ASL interpretation available upon request.

On Saturday, March 13 at 5 p.m., join a special dance film and conversation event with two of America's leading hiphop dance artists, Rennie Harris and Jon Boogz, as part of UMass Dance Department's Beyond the Proscenium Conference. Harris and Boogz will show new and rarely seen dance films and are joined by acclaimed dance artist-scholar Thomas DeFrantz for a special conversation around the intersection of street dance, Black culture, and social justice.

On the following Thursday, March 18 at 7 p.m., acclaimed interdisciplinary

dance theater artists Emily Johnson, who is Yup'ik, and Alice Sheppard engage in an artistic encounter and conversation around urgent artistic, social, and political issues facing disabled, queer, and Indigenous artists in contemporary society. Especially core to the discussion is the work to undo the burden placed on marginalized peoples by oppressive social structures and center accessibility, decolonization, disability, gender, race, and sexuality in arts, cultural, and educational institutions.

Bodies at Risk is a series of creative conversations between BIPOC performing artists, educators, activists, and other experts working to shift American society's understanding of the racialized body and social justice. These events aim to engage, move, and surprise audiences through artistic demonstration and intellectual curiosity, asking not simply who's "at risk," but the very nature of such terms, and the challenges in shifting to a more generative and transformative social discourse around race. An audience Q&A session is included in each event.

Lizzie Borden: The Mystery Continues

AMHERST – We all know the ditty "Lizzie Borden took an ax...." but few people know the actual facts! Join us for Lizzie Borden: The Mystery Continues, an event to be presented by Christopher Daly and hosted by the Jones Library via Zoom on Tuesday, March 23 at 7 p.m.

Lizzie Borden: The Mystery Continues is a one hour in-depth retelling of the famous double homicide. Extensive research utilizing archival materials, period newspapers and period photographs has been done to create an entertaining, fascinating and informative presentation about America's favorite mystery. At the end of the presentation, different theories on the murders will be set forth and the question of "Who done it?" will be put to the audience for further discussion and conjecture.

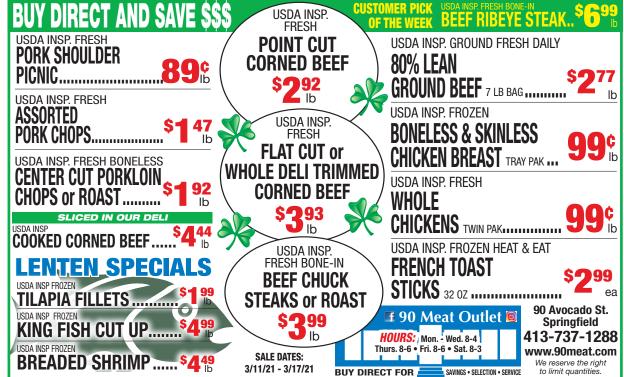
Daley has been lecturing all over New England for over 25 years on historical topics of interest and is currently a history teacher in the Silver Lake Regional School System in Kingston, Massachusetts. He holds a B.A. and an M.A. from Bridgewater State University in Political Science and History. Daley has served as historical consultant on the Sacco-Vanzetti Case for the Travel Channel's program "Time traveling with Brian Unger." He also appeared in two episodes of the Travel Channel's "Kindred Spirits" in the capacity of historian on shows about the Lizzie Borden Case.

To attend this event, please register by sending an email to programs@joneslibrary.org. You must register with your email address in order to receive the link to participate in this Zoom event. The link will be sent to you by email before the event. You will need a device with audio and/or video and an internet connection to join via Zoom.

For more information, please visit https://www.joneslibrary.org/ or contact Janet Ryan at ryanj@joneslibrary.org.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Jones Libraries.





■ PUBLIC SAFETY

Belchertown Police Log

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Feb. 23 through March 2. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Of the 273 calls police responded to, there were nine incidents, five accidents, three arrest/summons and six citation.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Saturday, Feb. 27

11:26 p.m. – A 62-year-old Belchertown man was issued a summons for leaving the scene of property damage and reckless operation of a motor vehicle. An officer responded to Mill Valley Rd and Cold Spring Rd for a report pf a single vehicle accident. Officers were told by dispatch there was a vehicle on side of road in a ditch and the operator didn't have any injuries. When officers responded to the area, the operator was no where to be found. Officers noted full air bag deployment and heavy frontend damage. There was a sign laying in front the vehicle. Another officers responded to the area to search for operator. Officers located their ID inside of the vehicle and went to the suspect's residence. They were unable to locate the operator. The officers requested that dispatch contact the K-9 officer to track the operator. The K-9 and K-9 officer attempted to track the operator but were unsuccessful. When doing the inventory of the vehicle, officers noticed skid marks at the stop sign indicating the operator was moving at a high rate of speed. There were also impres-



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sions in the ground indicated the operator was spinning the tires, attempting to move after the crash. Officers located the suspect's cell phone matched with person and attempted to call them. A hold was placed on the vehicle and the officers request the owner contact the station prior to its release. On March 2, the operator came into the station to speak with an officer. They explained they hit black ice and crashed the vehicle. When asked why they left the scene, the operator said they lived a short distance from the residence. The operator was issued a summons.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 24

6:22 a.m. - Officers took a report from resident who received a scam text message. The text said there was an error with their unemployment claim they filed. The resident was told not to respond to the texts.

4:05 p.m. - Officers took a report from resident who received a scam text message. The text said there was an error with their unemployment claim they filed. The resident was told not to respond to the texts.

Thursday, Feb. 25

1:22 p.m. - Officers took a report from resident who received a scam text message. The text said there was an error with their unemployment claim they filed. The resident was told not to respond to the texts.

Friday, Feb. 26

11:10 a.m. - An officer responded to a South Main St residence for a report of burglary. The caller said the male parties left in a vehicle headed toward Route 181 toward Palmer. When officers arrived on scene, they met with the reporting party who said the two suspects left in a white Mustang. Earlier that morning the two suspects knocked on the door of an adjacent apartment and left. Later on, the reporting party noise coming from an area of the adjacent apartment in the doorway. There was broken wood on the ground. The suspects took items and left the apartment after being confronted by the reporting party. Officers checked the apartment which was in disarray. There was no damage to the doorjamb, nor footprints in the apartment. The location hadn't be occupied in some time. A "be on the look out" broadcast was put out to area towns and cities, after officers were unable to locate the suspected vehicle. The matter was forwarded to a detective.

Saturday, Feb. 27

2:45 p.m. - Officers responded to a report of erratic operating, then a report of an accident. The operator said they were travelling south on North Washington St. when a vehicle approached them and they pulled over to allow for the vehicle to pass. The vehicle crossed the center line, into the northbound lane and ran off road. The vehicle stuck a stone culvert and came to rest in a ditch. There were no apparent injuries and no tow was necessary.

10:32 p.m. - Officers responded to an accident on Mill Valley Rd. The operator of one vehicle lost control on Mill Valley Rd because they came in contact with ice. The vehicle stuck a mailbox and came to rest in front of a residence. They were able to drive from scene and no injuries were reported.

10:43 p.m. - Officers responded to an accident on George Hannum Rd. The operator of the involved vehicle struck ice, losing control of the vehicle, and striking a guardrail. There was damage to front of the vehicle and the guardrail. The vehicle was able to be driven front the scene

and no injuries were reported.

Sunday, Feb. 28

1:03 a.m. - An officer took a report from an individual who reported stolen checks. Used to live in town moved since then, issued checks and had not received them believed being sent to address in town and someone was taking them. contacted party issued them and made out, but not cashed. Wasn't confirmed if cashed or not. March 1 spoke with check issuer, sent to residence not cashed. Still under investigation.

Monday, March 1

5:16 p.m. - Officers responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics.

6:39 p.m. - Officers spoke with an individual about a computer scam. The reporting party lost money through pre-paid credit cards. They reported a pop up appeared on their computer screen allegedly from Microsoft. The person was instructed to call a phone number and they spoke with a person claiming to be from Microsoft. The person was told they needed to purchase pre-paid credit cards to fix a virus. The person did and was instructed to read the numbers to the cards to the person Microsoft. The person found it was a scam and was told to contact their credit card company. It was also discovered that while the person allowed the scammer to access their computer, the scammer also accessed their bank account. The person was told to change their information and monitor other accounts for further activity.

Tuesday, March 2

6:33 a.m. - An officer to responded to a West St residence for a report of a tree that fell on vehicle and broke a fence. Due to the storm overnight, heavy winds caused a tree on town property to fall onto a fence and a car parked in a driveway.

4:35 p.m. - Officers responded to an accident on Turkey Hill Rd. A vehicle at a stop sign on Turkey Hill Rd waiting for traffic to pass. A second vehicle struck the first. The driver of the second vehicle reported the first stopped suddenly and they rear ended them. No injuries were reported and both vehicles were able to be driven from the scene.

Granby Police

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 147 calls for the week of Feb. 26 through March 4. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. All information is provided by the Granby Police Department.

Friday, Feb. 26

8:29 p.m. - Officers investigated an incident of fraud at Cumberland farms. The incident under investigation.

Saturday, Feb. 27

12:38 a.m. - Officers investigated a two-car accident on Jackielyn Circle. No injuries reported.

Tuesday, March 2

12 a.m. - Officers investigate motor vehicle accident on East St. The operator struck a tree that had fallen in roadway and caused damage.

6:41 p.m. – William Drohan, 52, of 67 Ridgewood Ave. Holyoke, was arrested for operation under influence of alcohol.

DAs office hosts stalking seminar

REGION - A Virtual training aimed at increasing reporting and charging of the crime of stalking drew 200 people

An estimated 8% of women and 2% of men have been that poses difficult challenges to local law enforcement.

"Stalking is homicide in slow motion," said Dana Fleitman, associate advisor of Aequitas Stalking Prevention, Awareness and Resource Center in Washington DC. According to Fleitman, stalking often co-occurs with

R S Α E R T I C DE Ν Α R Α E M M E T Е s I Α В S Т ROT R Α М N E O G M E S D A L AD R A D ВЕ R S S Ε S S W Α A P ASS N G E R o u s S L Ε CURI R E ST YL E S R Т

physical assault and sexual violence, including rape.

Some 20% of stalkers use weapons to threaten or harm victims and 76% of intimate partner femicides included stalking in the year leading up to the homicide, Fleitman

Fleitman was the main speaker at a virtual training sponsored by the Northwestern District Attorney's Office last week. About 200 area law enforcement, court staff and community advocates attended the training titled, "Intimate Partner Violence & the Crime of Stalking."

In the Northwestern District of Franklin and Hampshire counties and the town of Athol, there have been 23 intimate partner violence related homicides since 1984, most recently one in 2017 and one in 2019.

The primary goal of the training was to offer information to area law enforcement and community partners to increase reporting and charging of the crime of stalking, Mary Kociela, Director of Domestic & Sexual Violence Projects at the DA's Office, said.

Victims are experiencing stalking, but they often don't report it, Kociela said.

There were 10 stalking cases received by the DA's Office in a three-year period: four in 2016, one in 2017 and five in 2018.

These numbers are low, however, when compared to data from referrals to the NWDA's Domestic High Risk Team, an interdisciplinary collaboration of law enforcement, state agencies, batterer's intervention programs and victim advocates that works to identify high risk behaviors

STALKING • from page 10

in order to maximize victim safety and offender accountability. Stalking, strangulation, sexual assault and escalating violence are among behaviors identified as at high risk of leading to

Referrals to the High Risk Team in the same three-year period between 2016 and 2018 included 45 cases of stalking: 11 in 2016, 15 in 2017 and 19 in 2018.

"Stalking is a serious crime for victims of intimate partner violence that can actually escalate after the victim tries to separate from the abusive partner," Kociela said.

Victims of stalkers might feel anxious, nervous, isolated, become stressed, or develop signs of depres-

Fleitman shared quotes from victims who have experienced stalking.

"It's not easy to describe the fear you have when you see the stalker, or signs of the stalker, everywhere you

go. I have given up all hopes of ever having a safe life," one victim said.

"For the rest of my life, I will be looking over my shoulder, expecting to see him there," another said.

Attendees participated in an exercise utilizing the SHARP tool, a 43-item web-based assessment which provides an assessment of the "big picture" of a stalking situation. The SHARP tool offers an easy way to assess the level of risk in stalking sit-

PROJECT • from page 1

the remaining portion of the presentation was scheduled to March 9.

The specific program that has been proposed at the Belchertown location is the Three Rivers Program, which is a "Clinically Intensive Residential Treatment Program" serving children ages six through 12, who will reside in the new proposed home. It is the "most intensive residential treatment setting provided by Massachusetts for children under 13 years of age," according to Cutchins.

The Three Rivers Program, which is currently based in Springfield, originated 25 years ago and is one of the newer residential programs.

The Selectboard was asked to give its opinion on the project by the Planning Board.

Gramarossa said the legal advisors for Cutchins as well as legal advisors for the Planning Board were conversing about whether a special permit would be required in addition to a site plan review.

Belchertown Town Administrator Gary Brougham said there hasn't been any updates as of Monday, March 8.

Selectboard members Nick O'Connor and Jim Barry emphasized the importance of that infor-

"If zoning laws support this type of project, the Planning Board can't arbitrarily block it," O'Connor said.

Barry said projects like this one can be difficult to weigh in on.

"If the lawyers are in agreement that a special permit is required, then if it does not fit with the character of the neighborhood, the Planning Board has the ability to say no," Barry said. "(If not), yes, the Planning Board needs to be aware of these issues, of all kinds and do what they can to alleviate that via the site plan review process. None of those are sufficient to say no to a site plan review."

Selectboard member Ed Boscher said he would be opposed to the project if the concerns he brought up weren't addressed.

"Every realtor I've spoken to about project believes the property values of the surrounding residences will be negatively impacted," Boscher said. "Secondly with the traffic, I think they looked at the traffic in one area, but I don't know if the traffic on Bay Rd and Stebbins

where the hill comes over."

O'Connor said he had similar concerns as Boscher and he believed it was the "right project, wrong loca-

"Another thing that stood out to me was some of the concerns residents had...lighting 24-hour lighting in that area which (now) is essentially a dark community," he said. "My concerns are that it's an absolutely right mission, but I can't see it in that location."

Selectboard member Jen Turner reminded the group of the process going forward.

"It has to go through the Planning Board, fire department – I know they had questions about whether the fire suppression system would be required. I know the DPW has traffic concerns," Turner said. "All these concerns are going to go through every single process and those boards are going to have to make those determinations. I think there's a long way to go with this project."

Editor's note: Due to the Sentinel's Monday deadline, the Planning Board public hearing coverage will be in next week's issue.

■ OBITUARY

Philip Canuel

BELCHERTOWN - Philip Edward Canuel, 62, passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 17, 2021. Phil was predeceased by his brother, Alex J. Canuel, his father, Anicet Joseph Canuel and his mother, Rita Marie Canuel. He is survived by his wife, Margarita Canuel; his daughter, Rabecca A. Martinez; his son, Matthew E.



Canuel; his son-in-law, Hector L. Martinez; and his grandchildren, Jordon and Elyot. He also is survived by his brothers and sisters, Constance A. Canuel, Daniel A. Canuel, Coleen M. Smolinski, Angela M. Bamber and Pamela A. Canuel. Phil was a musician who played from the heart, an excellent machinist, an awesome cook, a lover of nature, a caring brother, a good friend, a good father, and a loving, wonderful husband. He was a friend and a "brother" to many. He will be deeply missed.

A walk through visitation will be held on March 13 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home. Due to current restrictions, Phil's burial will be held privately. Please visit www.beersandstory. com to extend online condolences.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

DEATH NOTICE

Philip Edward Canuel Died: Feb. 17, 2021 Burial services are private

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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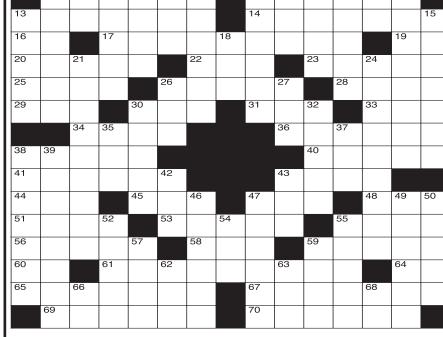
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- 1. Large dung beetle 7. Representation of a plan 13. In a fervid way
- 14. The Book of Psalms
- 16. Morning 17. Exactly the same 19. About
- 20. Brown and basmati are two
- 22. Swiss river 23. Philippine island
- 25. Expressions of surprise 26. An ant
- 28. Common Japanese surname 29. Deoxyribonucleic acid
- 30. Car mechanics group 31. A person's brother or
- 33. Ancient pharaoh 34. Quantitative fact 36. Vividly colored bird

- 38. Your nome has one 40. Organic compound 41. Section at the end of
- a book 43. Flat tableland with steep edges 44. Criticize
- 45. Split pulses 47. Brief trend 48. Cool!
- 51. Purposes 53. Brews 55. Skin condition
- 56. Pops 58. American air travel company
- 59. Minute bug 60. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- 61. One who rides in vour car 64. One of the Gospels 65. City in southern Spain
- 67. Inquisitive 69. Jean Paul __, author

- /U. Pop singer Harry
- **CLUES DOWN** 1. An ape or monkey 2. Chemical element 3. Zodiac sign
- 4. Removes 5. Brew 6. Nickname
- 7. Architectural structures 42. Talk 8. Trigonometric function 9. Postmodern architectural building
- in Vienna Henderson and Fitzgerald are two 11. Mountain (abbr.)
- 12. Landscaping practice 13. Capacitance unit 15. Redirect 18. Hat for women
- 21. In a way, dressed down 24. Granny

26. Feed

- 27. Endpoint 30. Indian instrument 32. Bleated 35. Cablegram (abbr.)
- 37. Root mean square (abbr.) 38. Jellyfishes
- 39. Individual TV installments
- 43. More (Spanish) 46. Leaseholder 47. Monetary units 49. Hostility
- 50. Work stations 52. Linguistics giant 54. Female sheep
- 57. Seasoning 59. Lofty nest of a bird of prey

55. Calendar month

- 63. A way to remove 66. Virginia
- 68. Old English

62. Single Lens Reflex



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Pioneers conclude season



Cordelia Hageman starts her way down the court.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY <u>WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM</u>
Stephanie Koslik looks for a different angle to approach the basket.

FOOTBALL

Football season ready to get underway

GREGORY A. SCIBELLI gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – For the first time ever, it will be football season in March and April, and teams will be playing into the warm instead of playing into the cold.

Rivalries will be renewed and the many games local fans love to see will take place over the next two months over the course of a six-week modified schedule.

While football was not played on Thanksgiving, some of the weather teams will play in during the first few weeks will feel like Thanksgiving. And some of the classic thanksgiving matchups will take place, including Agawam versus West Springfield, Chicopee versus Chicopee Comprehensive, and East Longmeadow versus Longmeadow.

Another big matchup scheduled between smaller schools is a classic rivalry between Palmer and Ware. That game is usually the culmination of the Tri-County League schedule for both teams in the fall, but will be a great way for the two teams to renew acquaintances since no football was played last fall.

Minnechaug will have a full

slate of games. Minnechaug has been a strong team in Division 3 the past few years, playing twice in the finals in recent years against powerful Central High School. They will also meet several other rivals, like Longmeadow and East Longmeadow.

Another team that is normally part of the powerful AA Conference is Holyoke High School. Holyoke will renew acquaintances with both Minnechaug and Agawam during

See FOOTBALL, page 13 •

AT THE RACES

McDermott balancing variety of roles in 2021

SEEKONK – Whether it's been as a crew chief, spotter, driver, mechanic or in another role, Cam McDermott has built quite the resume in short-track racing. He started his career driving in quarter midgets, quickly moved to the Thompson Speedway Modified division, where he won the championship -- and from there, his career has blossomed in a variety of different directions.

For 2021, McDermott is going to be quite the busy guy once again -- but his preparations for the season includes getting the No. 8 Maybury Material Handling machine ready for competition in the six Tri Track Open Modified Series events. McDermott will be behind the wheel of the family-owned machine to join a talent-filled group of competitors on the Tri Track circuit.

"We're mainly going to focus on the Tri Track stuff this year, transitioning into that after focusing on the Stafford Motor Speedway Open Modified races the last few years," McDermott said. "The competition with Tri Track is always great. I want to go out there and compete against the best -- I love doing that. On the ownership side of Tri Track, with what Wayne (Darling) and Ed (Bennett) are doing, it's good for the racers and the teams."

Outside of driving, McDermott will be working as crew chief for Eddie Harvey Racing on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, with his close friend Woody Pitkat, driving. McDermott is ready to tackle that role after more than a decade working with the legendary Pasteryak family, where he recently was the crew chief for Chris Pasteryak. Back when McDermott was winning races and a championship in the Thompson Modifieds, McDermott was connected with the Pasteryak family, started helping Carl on his car, and from there, became a major part of the operation. During the last decade, he says he completed just about every job there is on a Modified race team, minus maybe being the jackman or gasman on a pit stop. He also has experience working with Woody Pitkat in Pitkat's championship run at Stafford Motor Speedway, and when Pitkat was competing for Buzz Chew Racing on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour as a spotter.

as a spotter.

McDermott's driving experience also includes competing in the Lite Modified division at Thompson, where he was the champion, and at Stafford Motor Speedway, where he competed in the SK Light Modifieds and their premier SK Modified division.

And that's just scratching the surface of his resume.

"It just grew from the Thompson Modified days and it got better and better," McDermott said of his relationship with the



SUBMITTED PHOTO Cam McDermott serves a lot of roles on his racing team.

Pasteryak family. "They are just a great family to be around. Between the Pasteryak family and my dad, I've learned everything I know about racing from them. The Pasteryak's pay attention to every single detail. It's such a great atmosphere to be able to learn from them and now transition it into my own car. I've been able to take everything I've learned and just put it into what's best for me."

With experience with the Pasteryak family, and now some offseason time with Harvey preparing for the new season, McDermott feels 2021 might be his best ever behind the wheel. His driving resume speaks for itself, with multiple wins and championships, but he's lacking something he's trying hard to get: a win in a Tour-Type Modified. He hopes to end that drought with Tri Track this year.

"It was definitely a learning curve jumping from the SK Modified to the Tour-Type Modified, I think the Tour-Type Modified really suits my style a lot better than the SK does," McDermott said. "I'm not nearly as aggressive as everyone else to be dominant in the SK. Paying it out of your own pocket, it makes vou definitely consider everything. As a family-owned team with my parents, in-laws, and a few close friends and good sponsors helping us out, and all the experience I have in a variety of different roles, it should be a good year."

As most others, his goal is to come home with the car in one piece, have a solid run, and continue to build a notebook in hopes of visiting Victory Lane with Tri Track. But he knows the level of talent the Tri Track field will offer in 2021 -- ranging from former series champions to Whelen Modified Tour champions, race winners, rising stars and more, will be tough to compete with. His immediate goal is going to be to qualify for the races, then worry about the rest once the green flag drops.

"I have a lot of experience coming from many dif-

See RACES, page 13 •

NECBL to bring in video technology to league venues

NORTH ADAMS – The New England Collegiate Baseball League has agreed to a partnership with Synergy Sports to implement the company's innovative video technology into each of the league's ballparks, in addition to adding TrackMan technology to its venues. The two globally renowned products represent the league's grand vision to enhance the preparation and development for each player in every NECBL organization and to provide Major League Baseball (MLB) scouting departments with more access to player data than ever before.

As part of the agreement, each NECBL organization will install a six-camera Synergy Sports setup in their venues to record and log all game action, assisting coaches and student-athletes with game preparation and post-game review. The partnership also provides a teaching tool to allow coaches to work with student-athletes to develop their skills through detailed analysis of practices and games.

NECBL coaching staffs will benefit from the efficiency of the Synergy Sports system, with teams receiving fully tagged footage of games delivered directly into an online platform for detailed analysis. Players will be better equipped to scout and prepare for their opponents, while

also being able to analyze and breakdown their own highlights. All 30 MLB scouting departments across the league have already come to rely Synergy's elite scouting video services, and now will be able to view every pitch from every NECBL game directly into their draft

Synergy Sports has built its success on proprietary technology which links meaningful sports data and video clips to create visual statistics and analytics about players, teams and games. Patented "1-Click Video" links every stat to the supporting video, resulting in automatically generated edits that once took coaches hours to create. Infinite sorting and filtering of statistics and video clips in real time gives coaches endless opportunities to discover the answers to important questions as they formulate winning strategies.

TrackMan Baseball is used for player evaluation and development by all major league and minor league teams in the United States, some of the top NCAA programs and by a majority of teams in Japan and Korea. The industry-leading technology captures the most comprehensive and accurate ball tracking data during the game or at practice and is redefining the language of baseball.

FOOTBALL • from page 12

the abbreviated football season.

The football season is especially significant for Holyoke because the Knights as a school, will be participating in an athletic conference for the first time since Oct. 21, when the fall season was cut short in the city because Holyoke entered its third straight week of being in the red, high-risk for COVID-19 spread category. At that point, Holyoke officials stopped playing off all sports, cancelling the remainder of the fall season. Holyoke remained in the red category due to the second surge for four months, and officials cancelled the winter season while other schools in the red chose to participate in the basketball, hockey, and swimming season.

Holyoke finally went into the yellow two weeks ago, and green-lighted the Fall 2 season, allowing football, girls volleyball, unified basketball, and cheerleading to take place. The Knights are currently scheduled to play in the second week of the season, on March 26 against Minnechaug. The Knights are not currently scheduled for a Week 1 game.

The rest of the schedules are on miaa. net for most teams. The football season is set to conclude at the end of April, so teams can move into the abbreviated spring season, which will go from early May to the very end of June.

There will be no playoffs for the football season.

Wilbraham & Monson Academy announces hockey program revival

ice hockey is returning to Wilbraham & Monson Academy.

Beginning the winter of the 2021-2022 academic year, hockey at the club level will be added to the robust afternoon program at

The program will begin with boys and girls playing at the club level, with the plan to build to high-level boys and girls varsity teams in the near future. The team will participate six days a week, like other WMA sports, and will include five days on the ice each week. Other days will consist of dryland training, utilizing WMA's significant fitness facilities.

Spearheaded by Head of School Brian

WILBRAHAM - After a 19-year hiatus, P. Easler, as well as alumni Barry Maloney '85 and four-time Stanley Cup champion Bill Guerin '89, and three-time Olympic medalist Kacey Bellamy, an exploratory committee including current parents, was assembled to consider the idea of reviving the popular program.

"Hockey has been a part of the WMA history, and we look forward to it being part of the school's future, for both girls and boys,' Easler said. "We have students who attend WMA and play for outside teams, and we are excited for them to have the opportunity to play for their school and help us build a competitive program we can all be proud

See WMA, page 16 •

RACES • from page 12

ferent directions. I wouldn't say that I know everything -- no one does in racing," McDermott said. "There's always a learning curve for everyone with new stuff coming out, new technology... but driving-wise I feel like I'm almost there. A good year for me would be to make all of the races, first. There is so much competition, and just qualifying is going to be difficult. If we can get into the races, then get some top-fives, I feel like that would be good. If you can get to the top-five, you can compete for wins.'

Tri Track will visit three of New England's historic race tracks --Monadnock Speedway, Seekonk Speedway and Star Speedway during the season -and McDermott does have limited experience with all of them, driving previously in Tri Track races, where he does have top-10

"I've run all three tracks before and I like Star a lot, we always seem to be really competitive there," McDermott said. "We ran Seekonk at the Haunted Hundred in 2019 and we were competitive until the last lap, when we went through the infield in the middle of chaos in front of us. I like both of those tracks a lot. I still haven't gotten my hands around Monadnock yet. The one time we went there we were fast, but broke a trailing-arm bracket, so we don't really know how that day would have ended. My dad grew up at Seekonk -- he ran Street Stocks there and I grew up in the grandstands there. I'm looking forward to running there again."

Without his parents, in-laws, a few close friends and sponsors like Maybury Material Handling, Douglas Battery, Richard Green Insurance and McDermott Motorsports Services, McDermott wouldn't be in the position he is now. The support from his wife -- Lauren -- who raced previously herself, has been a major player in his career. He's hoping to balance his past experience with his current roles and help himself grow as a driver en route to victory lane in 2021.

"We're going to enjoy it," McDermott said. "I was with the Pasteryak's for all of the years and still ran my own team at the same time, so I think we will be good. I think you learn a lot about the cars and that helps you understand everything a lot better when you're in a variety of roles like I have been in. I come from an engineering background and I think if you understand everything, the more you do the better you will be at everything."

"Just being able to get the opportunity to do what I do now is because of all of the people that have supported me in my career. Everyone is always pushing me to be better. All of my experiences have been great and I look to continue on with it this

Registration for the 2021 Tri Track season is open, and teams can register at TriTrackModifieds.com/team-info. Teams have the option to either sign-up for the whole season or just one single race.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts **The Trial Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court** 15 Atwood Drive Northampton, MA 01060 (413)586-8500 Docket No. HS21P0100EA **Estate of:** Joseph P Wyngowski, Jr. Date of Death: 10/07/2018

CITATION ON PETITION FOR **FORMAL ADJUDICATION** To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy has been filed by Deana M Wyngowski of Belchertown MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Deana M. Wyngowski of Belchertown MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/31/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION **UNDER THE** MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative

appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of admin-

WITNESS, Hon. Linda S Fidnick, First Justice of this

Date: March 01, 2021

Michael J. Carey Register of Probate 03/11/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court** Hampshire Division 15 Atwood Dr. Northampton, MA 01060 (413)586-8500Docket No. HS21P0108EA Estate of:

Patricia Jacqueline Mitchell Also Known As: Patricia J. Mitchell Date of Death: 01/22/2021 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Sarah M. Bean of Belchertown, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Sarah M. Bean of Belchertown, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 03/11/2021

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SNOW'S SE

SELF STORAGE LLC, will sell at Public Auction at 746 Bay Road, Belchertown, MA, all the personal property stored in its facility by:

Mosheh Roller: OCC2-20 & OCC2-21

At 10:00 am, Saturday, April 3, 2021, at the premises of SNOW'S SELF STORAGE LLC, 746 Bay Road, Belchertown, MA, by Warren Schreiber,

Auctioneer, as Agent for Snow's Self Storage, LLC.

Snow's Self-Storage reserves the following rights: to bid at the public auction, to refuse any and all bids, or to cancel the auction at any time for any reason. 03/11, 03/18/2021

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling).

Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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Northeast states receive a federal grant to coordinate rare turtle conservation efforts

STATE - Once abundant in many rivers and streams in Massachusetts, over the past few decades wood turtle populations have experienced serious declines throughout their range from Virginia to Nova Scotia. The major contributing factors include habitat fragmentation from human development, dam construction, and illegal collection from the wild. The wood turtle has been designated as a Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need by the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and conservation partners across the northeast states have been helping this rare turtle by finding ways to work together.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service recently selected a Competitive State Wildlife Grant for funding entitled "Regional Conservation for Wood Turtles and Related Emydine Turtles" led by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife along with other partner state agencies in the northeast. The multi-year grant will provide a more strategic approach to conserving important populations and minimizing declines. Partners will follow recommendations in their regional conservation plan for the wood turtle, developed with support of an earlier Competitive State Wildlife Grant.

"For over 10 years, the northeastern states have been working together to identify, prioritize, and implement conservation actions for wood turtles," said Mike Jones, state herpetologist for MassWildlife. "This Competitive State Wildlife Grant will allow us to implement time-sensitive actions at the region's most important wood turtle sites."

The Northeast Wood Turtle Working Group has collaborated on data collection techniques, analyzed data from



Massachusetts recently received a grant to help with protecting the wood turtle, which has been designated a species in great conservation need.

thousands of field surveys by volunteers and biologists, and began a comprehensive genetics analysis to identify relationship patterns between wood turtle populations in different places.

Actions to support wood turtles will benefit other species as well, including freshwater mussels, fish, amphibians, and other turtle species.

In addition to habitat protection, restoration, and voluntary technical assistance to interested private landowners, the project involves specific efforts to mitigate road mortality and illegal collection of wood turtles.

As part of a coordinated response to this threat, the grant will support housing of up to 50 confiscated wood turtles for up to three years in a secure facility run by trusted partners. Bristol County Agricultural School in Dighton, Massachusetts, has worked with MassWildlife for the past decade to provide temporary foster homes to hatchling endangered northern red-bellied cooters (another native turtle) as part of a successful

restoration effort.

"Whatever is helpful to the turtles and to MassWildlife is a good educational experience for our kids," said Bristol Aggie's Natural Resource Department Chair Brian Bastarache, who oversees the school's turtle project operations. "This is real conservation work that gives them an opportunity to apply what they learn in classroom." The school is currently undergoing a major capital improvement project on campus, including four new labs that will quadruple their holding capacity for turtles.

Fittingly, care and feeding for continued collaboration between states is another element of the grant. For example, a turtle conservation meeting will be held in 2022 on wood turtle and related high-priority turtle species. This event will bring together experts and specialists from across the range who are working on similar problems and will result in new partnerships and conservation projects across state lines.

Three Minute Thesis Competition, March 18

AMHERST - UMass-Amherst brings their Three Minute Thesis Competition to the Jones Library on Thursday, March 18 at 4 p.m. via Zoom.

Graduate students at UMass-Amherst conduct exciting research on a variety of timely topics, from food safety to improved water delivery systems to election reform. UMass's Three Minute Thesis competition challenges graduate students to communicate the significance of their research to a general audience, in three minutes or less. See the finalists' presentations at this fun and informative virtual event - audience members will have the chance to vote on the \$500 People's Choice award winner.

This event is free and open to the public. Visit the Jones Library online calendar at www.joneslibrary. org about a week before the event to find the Zoom

This program is brought to the Jones Library by the University of Massachusetts Amherst Graduate

For more information, please contact Janet Ryan at ryanj@joneslibrary.org.

WMA • from page 13

of and which can serve the greater Springfield hockey community."

Though a coach has yet to be named, enthusiasm within the network of current and former hockey players in the Academy's student body and alumni communities, along with the opportunity to build a prep school program from the ground up, will no doubt be a draw for coaching candidates and, ultimately, the best coach for the WMA program. Interested applicants may submit their materials to hockey@wma.us; the deadline is Monday, March 15, 2021.

To learn more about WMA hockey and the Academy's other programming, visit www.wma.us/ hockey or www.wma.us.





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